

Torii Teller

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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, JAPAN

JUNE 11, 2004

Study shows variable pricing bad for Commissary

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
News Release

FORT LEE, Va. — The long-awaited independent variable pricing study recommends the Defense Commissary Agency not implement the practice of variable pricing.

The primary objective of the study was to provide an assessment of the feasibility of using variable pricing within DeCA to reduce appropriated fund costs while sustaining a 30 percent customer savings rate.

“We have been studying variable pricing as a means to deliver the highest quality benefit as efficiently as possible. It is one of many tools examined as part of our agency’s re-engineering process,” said DeCA director, Maj. Gen. Mike Wiedemer.

Study results confirm that variable pricing is not a feasible means to reduce taxpayers’ cost while maintaining a high savings rate.

“I am satisfied that this was a thorough and impartial review of the concept of variable pricing. It pro-

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Northern Edge kicks off in Alaska

Pfc. LYDIA DAVEY
Combat Correspondent

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska — Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 arrived here recently to participate in Northern Edge 2004.

The squadron lent its assets to an exercise that will incorporate more than 150 aircraft and 9,000 military members from all four branches of the service and the Coast Guard.

“This exercise is vitally important to joint training in the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility,” said Air Force Col. Steven Hatter, NE04 exercise director.

“During the exercise, our Marines will participate in a variety of missions,” stated Maj. Michael Rodriguez, pilot and maintenance officer for VMFA(AW)-225.

“The missions will include close air support, defensive counter air exercises, maritime integration, special operations and personnel recovery operations.”

In addition to testing the readiness of military forces, the training will help Marine aircrews to practice their vital missions in a joint-service environment, said Rodriguez.

“One of the challenges we face as a squadron is coordinating the logistical effort needed to support a squadron of aircraft on deployment,” said Rodriguez. “So far the Marines are doing a great job. The maintenance crews have been



Pfc. Lydia Davey

Marines attached to Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225 arrived recently at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, to participate in Northern Edge 2004. The squadron is participating in one of the Pacific’s largest annual joint-service exercises.

working long hours to ensure the exercise is successful.”

Rodriguez also credits the Air Force for their help in preparing for the exercise.

“From billeting and providing work spaces to planning, they’ve given us all the support we need logistically and tactically,” he said.

The exercise is normally held during the winter, but was moved to June this year in order to accommodate the world-

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INSIDE

Firefighters learn new safety tools
Annual Firefighters’ expo gathers to share lifesaving techniques.

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Toukasan Festival declares summer
Thousands swarm streets in Hiroshima to celebrate Toukasan Festival.

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IWAKUNI WEATHER



Today
Partly Cloudy
High: 79



Saturday
Partly Cloudy
High: 82



Sunday
T-Storms
High: 79

www.iwakuni.usmc.mil

Survey ensures effective water usage

LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

As part of an initiative from Headquarters Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is currently undergoing an in-depth survey to assess its water usage efficiency.

Water consumption is an important cost factor for military installations worldwide. At the Station, conservation methods are continually reevaluated to provide the most cost-effective distribution of water to residents.

“Headquarters Marine Corps contracted a water survey team to go to all the Marine Corps bases around the world,” said Chief Petty Officer Richard Robinson, Facilities energy conservation officer. “Iwakuni is one of the last bases they have come to.”

The team consists of two water specialists, John Merritt, technical services specialist from Heath Consultants Incorporated,

and Pad Padmanaba, Environmental Technology and Management Inc. president, conducting the survey in two phases.

For the first phase, Merritt conducted a 21-part inventory of materials the Station uses to retrieve water. For this task, Merritt inspected water closets, sinks, faucets, showerheads and other water distribution devices.

By measuring the flow rates of these instruments, Merritt inventoried the water consumption aboard the Station.

“The Air Station uses an average of 918,000 gallons of water each day of the year,” said Robinson. “We employ restricting devices which help to conserve the usage of water so we don’t actually have to tell people to stop using water. We have aerators that go on the faucet to restrict the amount of water coming out. Low-flow showerheads reduce the amount that comes out of the shower. Devices inside water closets actually put

more water into the toilet tank so that less pours down the bowl.”

For the second phase of the survey, Padmanaba is currently inspecting the underground water lines for cracks or leaks.

“The inspector walks the waterline routes, listening for leaks,” said Robinson. “He has about 33 miles to walk. I know that he’s about one-third finished now and has found no leaks so far.”

When the survey is finished, the contractors will deliver a report, recommending ways for the Station to better distribute water. Besides more effectively conserving its most precious natural resource, the Station’s basic functional costs will be reduced.

“If a leak is found, then Facilities will excavate and expose the water line for inspection or repair,” said Robinson. “In Okinawa, the changes from fixing leaks resulted in the saving of over \$400,000.”



Torii Teller

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All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, Building 1, Room 216, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. Call 253-5551.

The *Torii Teller* welcomes Letter to the Editor submissions. Letters are the opinion of the writer only. Submissions can be edited for clarity and space. Letters can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office or sent via e-mail to bonidw@iwakuni.usmc.mil.

**PSC 561 Box 1868
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Some words from "experts"

Editor's note: This story is in reference to a commentary written called "Be safe, but only out in town." in the May 21st's edition of the *Torii Teller*.

NAVY LT. GENE GARLAND

Letter to the Editor

While I can empathize with the pain experienced during the recent safety standdowns, it is important to continue to train and sometimes sit through monotonous briefs.

Despite our educational efforts at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and other installations in the Department of the Navy, in 2003 we incurred 54 fatalities in the Navy and Marine Corps during the "101 Critical Days of Summer."

We are all accountable to practice operational risk management (ORM) on daily basis, on and off-duty. Some

of you may be asking, "what is ORM?" ORM is a decision-making tool used by people at all levels to increase effectiveness by anticipating hazards and reducing the potential for loss, thereby increasing the probability of a successful mission.

Operational risk management does not aim to eliminate risk, but to manage risk so that the mission can be accomplished with the minimum amount of loss. The five-step ORM process is a standardized tool that will help you operate successfully in high-risk environments.

As military personnel, we have a responsibility at every level to identify hazards, take measures to reduce the associated risk, and accept risk only when the benefits of the operation exceed the accepted risk.

Operational risk management is an effective tool for maintaining readiness in peacetime and success in combat because it helps conserve assets so they can be applied at a

decisive time and place. Operational risk management is not just an S-3 (Operations) or S-4 (Logistics) shop function.

Small unit leaders, individual Marines and Sailors make risk decisions everyday, and need to know how to manage risks. The goal is to make ORM part of our daily operations on and off duty.

This simple, logical process will help save lives, protect people and preserve assets, while we accomplish our missions efficiently and effectively. Not to mention that we all have a moral responsibility to protect our Marines and sailors.

As I approach 20 years of service with the Department of the Navy, this "expert" has had the privilege to hump a few miles, land on a few carrier decks and climb through a few bilge spaces. My philosophy remains the same, "it only takes one to make a difference." That "one" that we never hear about may be a life you save.

Marines can handle paying long-distance plan

LANCECPL RUBEN D. CALDERON

Combat Correspondent

Some day, and I know this for a fact, I will be in some desolate land that is surrounded by sand.

The days will be hot and dry and the nights will be cold and lonely. Sounds and sights of explosions and gunfire will be the norm. There will be chaos. Straight pandemonium.

If the scenario that I am describing has not been clear, I'm sorry. I'm talking about what we Marines call "the sandbox."

Scary thought. But it's in our destiny, as bearers of these digital ornamented uniforms, to live that experience. To breathe in and taste that desert morning breeze.

To put your life in the hands of that Marine that is fighting next to you. And vice-versa. I have only heard stories of such vivid accounts. But knowing that it might be me one day really puts things in perspective.

The one and only thing that will keep me going when that day comes will be my family. Surviving such atrocities can only come through with good training and the hope to see the faces of my family and my loved ones. I know that keeping contact with them on a monthly basis will be difficult. Phone calls back home will be nonexistent.

As of right now, I am here: Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. The only thing that I have to worry about is ... failing field day inspections. Frivolous things. But it's okay because I am able to make phone calls back home. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

But, as a resident of Barracks 314, I spend gargantuan amounts of money on phone calls. Being that I reside in the barracks (same applies to the residents in Barracks 313), I

am not allowed to have any long-distance phone plans. I am envious of my staff noncommissioned officers. They, as well as any other Japanese Enhanced Network Systems Corporation customer, happily spend six yen per minute for long distance phone calls.

I am aware that because of the Marines before me, them being "undisciplined" and not being able to make their payments, the new class of Marines are paying for it. By the thousands.

Not only do I pay \$34 a month for the phone bill, I also pay \$20 per JENS Corporation phone card. And I alone accumulate, on the average, three JENS Corporation phone cards per month.

That's a whopping \$94 subtracted from my lance corporal pay. A total of 28 percent of my month's salary.

The other day I saw a sign advertising the JENS Corporation phone cards. Bam! In your face:

"Lowest Price 12.5 cents a minute to the U.S. (160 minutes)."

So that means that we freedom fighters that live in Barracks 314 or 313 are paying double of what the regular cost of long-distance

calls are.

I'm not asking to lower the monthly costs or lower the price of phone cards, but could their possibly be anyway that we defenders of freedom could get some type of prepaid barracks phone plan with the good folks over at the JENS Corporation company.

I wouldn't want to start another cycle of Marines not paying their bills on time. So I think, and I hope that everyone will agree on this simple solution, that there should be some type of prepaid plan. We'll pay before we use any of those minutes.

I miss home, this is the life I chose, but if there's any way that I can call home, just like everyone else in MCAS Iwakuni, I would like to do it.

Station phone rates:

1st plan - on-base calling only, \$26.01 per month.

2nd plan - commercial calling cards (average of \$20 per card) and on-base calling, \$34.68 per month.

3rd plan - unlimited long-distance phone calling (six yen per minute) and on-base calling, \$34.69 per month.

Marines hike around Station

LANCE CPL. GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Marine Aircraft Group 12 went on their biannual hikes around the Station June 4.

This time they had more in mind than training and physical conditioning. The hike was a way of giving a last farewell to the MAG-12 Headquarters commanding officer and congratulate the Marines who continue to give loyal service to the United States Marine Corps.

"We came out here today to get out and do some physical training, MCMAP (Marine Corps Marine Arts Program sustainment) and to honor Maj. Robert W. Reynolds and Gunnery Sgt. Michael L. Daley for reenlisting," said Gunnery Sgt. James W. Biggs, MAG-12 first sergeant.

The Marines came prepared with alicie packs full of gear, ranging from

skivvies to sleeping bags.

The motivated Marines stepped out at 7:30 a.m. from the North Side football field and commenced with their journey along the perimeter of the Station.

After a brief stop for gear adjustment, the hump continued as the unsuspecting Marines got a surprise.

The sirens sounded, indicating a drill emulating a gas attack. The Marines quickly donned and cleared their masks and screamed "Gas! Gas! Gas!"

Once at the sand pit in front of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal site, MCMAP instructors took charge for the next hour.

"We performed the tan belt moves as part of the Marines MCMAP sustainment training," said Biggs.

"This was a good chance for the Marines to get a quick reminder of most of the tan belt moves," said Sgt. Raquel Stewart MAG-12 fiscal noncommis-

sioned officer in charge. "It's good to know that the unit takes time to do some training."

The sounds of a Marine Corps cadence could be heard as the Marines humped the approximate seven miles around the Station.

In addition to the test of endurance and MCMAP training, the hike was also a time for Marines to unite.

"This was my first time going on one of the unit hikes," said Stewart. "The hump was a great opportunity for unit camaraderie. It is a good change from us just gathering and spending time with each other during formations."

The hump ended with a ceremony for Daley's reenlistment and Reynolds good-bye presents. A barbecue was also prepared for the Marines hard work before going back to work.

"This kind of training is good to do," said Stewart. "It helps keep the Marines both mentally and physically in shape."



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Staff Sgt. Eric Mason, Marine Aircraft Group 12 operations chief, practices knee strikes during their hike around the Station.

Iwakuni hosts Japanese, American firefighter's expo

LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

The Iwakuni Station Fire Department hosted a hands-on rescue tool demonstration and training class May 27 as part of the week-long, 21st annual All-Japan Fire Chief Officer's Conference.

The class included major vendors demonstrating the latest in rescue technology. Fire departments and city officials throughout Japan attended the demonstration, including officials from Iwakuni's Disaster Preparedness Office.

"The intent of the conference was to get fire chiefs and officials throughout Japan together for one meeting to evaluate standard operating procedures and field operation guides, and provide an open forum to discuss the new technology and techniques for fire suppression and fire emergency services," said Station fire chief Devin Johnston-Lee. "This year was the first year they actually conducted major hands-on training. The representatives of the companies providing the equipment were not salesmen, they were actually the presidents, interested in seeing how we're operating."

"Our company sells a lot of equipment here, so we want to support that by bringing a specialist here to do the training on it," said Kevin Krause, rescue specialist with L.N. Curtis and Sons, an emergency equipment company based in Oakland, Calif. "It's great to come out, and see how other departments do things. I learn from them, and they learn from me."

Also among the vendors was Rob Freese, co-owner of Globe Manufacturing Company, the largest manufacturer of firefighting clothing in the world.

"We were invited here by the Iwakuni Fire Department to help demonstrate the latest and greatest in protective clothing," said Freese. "We wanted to get a hands-on experience so we can learn a little bit more about what the needs are of the military, as well as the

Japanese fire departments, and help deliver products that are specific to the marketplace."

Freese demonstrated his company's new, lightweight clothing, which offers a higher level of protection and easier maneuverability during rescue operations.

Other demonstrations included concrete and steel cutting, heavy lift bags, which lift the entire front end of a bus off the ground, and shore kits and rescue struts used to help prevent further structure collapse during a rescue operation.

"It's not just about structural fire fighting any more," said Freese. "Statistically, the fire services now respond to 87 per-

cent of things that are not structural fires. From automobile rescues to all the different equipment that's necessary for terrorist incidents, to all the first response responsibilities that the fire services now take on. Fire departments have a lot of equipment needs. This conference has not been about sales, but about information sharing between these Japanese fire services and U.S. based companies, so we can know how to better provide what is needed."



Lance Cpl. David Revere

Iwakuni firefighters demonstrate the power of the Cutter's Edge Rotary Saw for media and firemen throughout Japan and the United States.

NEWS BRIEFS

FRIENDS OF BILL W.

The local open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous gathers on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays at 9 p.m. in Yujo Hall, Room 103, located next to the Chapel. For more information, call Shaun at 253-3971 or e-mail brownss@1mawmag12.usmc.mil.

ANNUAL NAVAL INTELLIGENCE ESSAY CONTEST

This contest is open to anyone. The winning essay is published in the February issue of "Proceedings" magazine. Essays should not exceed 3,500 words and may pertain to any subject relating to naval intelligence or intelligence support to naval or maritime forces. Direct entries to: Naval Intelligence Essay Contest, Naval Intelligence Professionals, P.O. Box 9324, McLean, VA 22102-0324. Entries submitted electronically should be sent to mailto:navintproessays@aol.com. The first prize is \$1,000. The deadline for the essay contest is Aug. 1.

TRAFFIC COMING SOON

One-lane traffic is scheduled 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at:

- ♦ Agan Road behind the Memorial Center to the Contractor's Gate, Monday through Aug. 31.
- ♦ Contractor's Gate to Newell Drive, Aug. 8 through Sept. 15.

Summer summons Japan’s pesky critters

Station residents take heed to slithering serpents

LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

With the warmer weather approaching, Station residents may find themselves taking advantage of the scenic beauty of local recreational areas. Despite the beautiful scenery, certain risks still lurk in the form of dangerous reptiles.

Mainland Japan is known for inhabiting two forms of snakes; The Mamushi and Yamakagashi snake. Both snakes are considered poisonous and at times, dangerous.

“Both snakes are brown with dark patterns on their backs,” said Navy Lt. Eugene Garland, Branch Medical Clinic environmental health officer. “When angry, they raise their heads and move into an ‘s’ shape. This defensive posture is meant to intimidate their enemy.”

Both serpents can be found in bushes, forests, and around mountain streams, rice paddy fields, rivers or small ponds.

Despite the snake’s strong poison, the chances of dying from a bite are low. The Mamushi’s small size varies between 16-30 inches and its short 13-inch striking distance makes it harder to bite the unsuspecting.

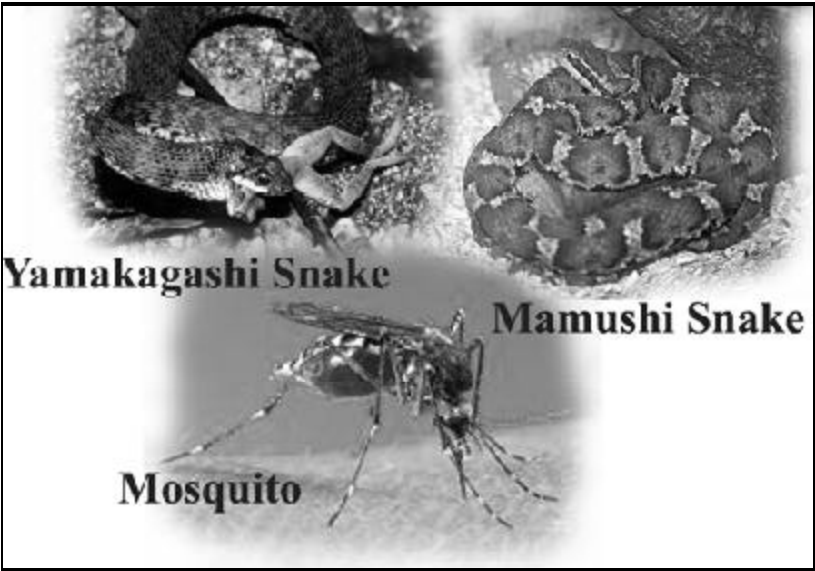
The Yamakagashi ranges from 23 to 47 inches. Despite its larger size, its behavior tendencies tend to be timid. It rarely bites unless provoked. The Yamakagashi is known for spraying its venom and if sprayed in the eyes, blindness is possible.

However, because the Yamakagashi’s fangs are in the back of its mouth, a deep bite is necessary to inject poison into a person. If deep enough, the bite can result in fatality.

“Generally, snakes are mild mannered reptiles who prefer hiding to fighting,” said Garland. “If left alone, they will not attack. They don’t have fangs to attack people. They have fangs for hunting and defending themselves against their natural enemies.”

Garland said another way to shun a tragedy with snakes is to avoid tall grass and wear long pants. If hiking or camping, stick to the established trail and don’t go anywhere alone.

According to Garland, following a few simple



What you don’t know about the Mamushi and Yamakagashi snakes:

- The Mamushi and Yamakagashi are two of only five poisonous snakes that can be found in Japan.
- Mamushi’s back is dark and reddish brown in color with a round platter-shaped design. The stomach area is gray with white, lengthwise stripes.
- Yamakagashi’s body color varies, but they are normally dark or greenish-brown. They have big, black patches on their necks, followed by irregular black patches with orange alternate markings along the first one-third of their body and averages up to three feet (.91 meters) in length.

Interesting facts about mosquitoes:

- Mosquitoes are born in standing water, mud, ponds, tin cans, under decks, puddles and old tires, etc.
- Worldwide there are approximately 3,300 species of mosquitoes.
- Only the female bites you because the beak on the male mosquito is not built in a way that it can bite you.
- Mosquitoes rarely travel farther than 300 feet from their birthplace.
- They like dark areas and will suck the juice out of plants in order to live - including tree leaves, grass, shrubs, etc.
- Spraying poisons kills adults present today, but more are born tomorrow and you must spray poisons again tomorrow.

procedures can greatly increase chances for survival for anyone bitten by either snake.

“If bitten, do not attempt to cut or suck the poison out. Immobilize the affected area and apply ice to it,” said Garland added. “Additionally, apply a constricting band between the wound and the heart. It should be loose enough so a finger can be placed between it and the skin.”

If bitten, seek medical attention immediately or contact urgent care at 253-5571.

Mosquitoes take flight over Iwakuni

LANCE CPL DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

From May through October, mosquitos are the most significant pests at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, according to the Preventive Medicine Division of the Branch Medical Clinic.

Both the Preventive Medicine Division and Facilities Pest Management Shop have outlined a number of preventive measures in order to control the population.

“Station residents can reduce the number of mosquitoes on base by eliminating their potential breeding habitats,” stated Navy Lt. Eugene Garland, Branch Medical Clinic environmental health officer. “These can be anywhere stagnant water accumulates such as open containers. There is not much that can be done to eliminate breeding sources in private lands around the Station. On Station, debris can be swept from rain gutters and standing water can be removed.”

For personal protection, potential exposure is reduced by using mosquito repellent and following label instructions and all precautions closely. Repellent should not be used over cuts, wounds or irritated skin. Application around eyes, nose or mouth should be avoided, as well as anywhere near food.

For living spaces, Station residents should ensure screens from windows and doors are in good repair.

For areas dense with mosquitoes, long-sleeved shirts and pants should be worn, especially when going outside during dusk or dawn. Mosquitoes are most active during this time.

“Preventive Medicine conducts periodic surveillance and notifies Pest Management when substantial increase in the density of biters (females) are identified,” Garland stated. “Pest Management will apply insecticides as Ultra Low Volume spray. The sprays disperse fine aerosol droplets that kill flying mosquitoes on contact. The Pyrethrum based insecticide we use has minimal risk to humans, pets and the environment. The insecticide will degrade within 24 hours, producing little residual effect.”

The Preventive Medicine Office suggests a few measures for protection against insecticides.

Special attention should be paid to announcements about spraying. Station residents should stay indoors during application.

All windows should be closed and air conditioners turned off while the spraying is taking place. Windows should be closed for two or three hours after spraying.

Toys should be removed from outdoors areas. If the toys are left outside, a thorough soap and water wash is needed.

For more information, contact the Preventive Medicine Division at 253-3419 or visit www.epa.gov/pesticides.

Cobra Gold proves potent

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

UDONTHANI, Thailand — With various evolutions and training scenarios completed, Marines and Sailors from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni concluded exercises in Cobra Gold '04 recently.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251, Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 225, Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 and Marine Aircraft Group 12 deployed here May 13 to participate in the annual multilateral training exercise.

"We were all excited and prepared to take on any challenges this deployment had to offer," said Lt. Col. Thomas S. Clark, VMFA-251 commanding officer.

Not only did the Marines and Sailors work hand in hand with the United States Air Force and Army, but also with the Armed Forces of Thailand, Philippines, Mongolia and Singapore for the exercise.

The 23rd annual Cobra Gold exercise spread throughout Thailand to include Korat, Pitsanulok, Sattahip and Utapao.

According to the Cobra Gold '04 Combined Joint Information Bureau, Cobra Gold is an ongoing series of U.S.-Thai military exercises designed for the assurance of provincial peace through the U.S. Pacific Command's strategy of cooperative engagement, and strengthens the ability of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to defend Thailand.

"Being that this is the first time Marines were training in Udonthani, this was a very important exercise and a key factor for the military," said Maj. Gen. John F. Goodman, 1st Marine Air Wing commanding general.

"This was one of the most important places to be in establishing, building and enhancing our relationship with the Thai government," added Goodman. "Udonthani is an excellent place for Marines to train as well. It's good training and it



F/A-18D planes from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251 fuel-up and prepare for the journey back to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Thunderbolts, as well as several other units from MCAS Iwakuni deployed to Udonthani, Thailand for Exercise Cobra Gold '04.



Cpl. Mauricio A. Driaza (left) and Lance Cpl. Jason A. Ramnath, both VMFA-251 power line mechanics, replace a throttle boost actuator from a F/A-18D plane.

prepares us for combat."

Cobra Gold '04 included joint-combined land and air operations, combined naval operations, amphibious operations and special operations. This exercise also provided constructive benefits to the people of Thailand through combined U.S.-Thai medical and civil affairs projects.

Part of the training that went on in Udonthani was the flying of F/A-18D planes.

"We did some low altitude training and many other exercises. We looked forward to flying through these unique ranges. We took full advantage of the land and had some good training," said Clark, who thought the exercise as a whole was a success.

Approximately 13,500 U.S. service



Maj. Gen. John F. Goodman, 1st Marine Air Wing commanding general, paid a command visit to Marines in Udonthani, Thailand, participating in Exercise Cobra Gold '04.

members and over 6,000 Royal Thai service members participated in this year's exercise.

COMMISSARY from Page 1

vides sufficient evidence to rule out variable pricing as a method of operation for DeCA. DeCA and DoD leadership will continue to seek other ways we can improve effectiveness and efficiency in providing the commissary benefit, and ensure that we continue to deliver a sound return on taxpayer investment," stated Charles Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness.

In the commercial grocery industry, variable pricing means that retailers set prices to meet their profit margins based on factors such as local market conditions, competition, or how much customers can be expected to pay for an item. Since commissaries sell at cost, DeCA's pricing practices do not

rely on meeting a profit margin and discounts are passed directly to the customers. Under DeCA's current pricing model, commissary customers pay shelf price plus a five percent surcharge.

DeCA's current business model delivers an average savings of 30 percent or more for military families. Those savings can amount to about \$2,700 annually for a family of four with regular commissary shopping.

"As we continue to study ways to obtain cost efficiencies, we don't want to lose sight of the fact that commissaries are a benefit," said Wiedemer. "DeCA's 'reason for being' is to deliver that benefit to military members and their families. Our number one concern has to be delivering value, savings and customer service to those families."

SQUADRONS from Page 1

wide scheduling of combat forces and the availability of a carrier strike group, said Hatter.

"There are some major advantages to holding NE04 during the summer," Hatter said. "Mainly the excellent weather we have here in June. Disadvantages include limited night training, and of course, no cold-weather training."

Near the conclusion of the exercise, the Marines of '225 will be returning to their current post in Iwakuni.

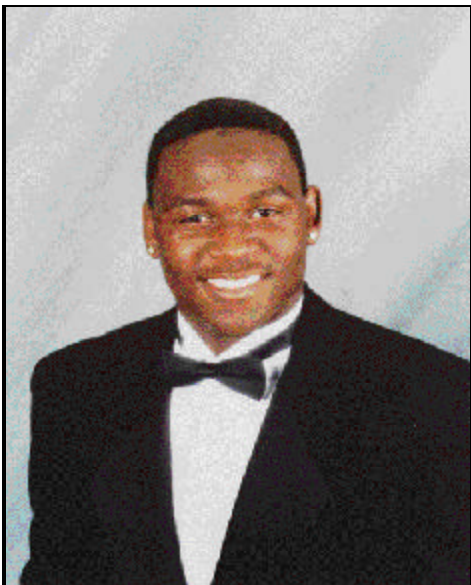
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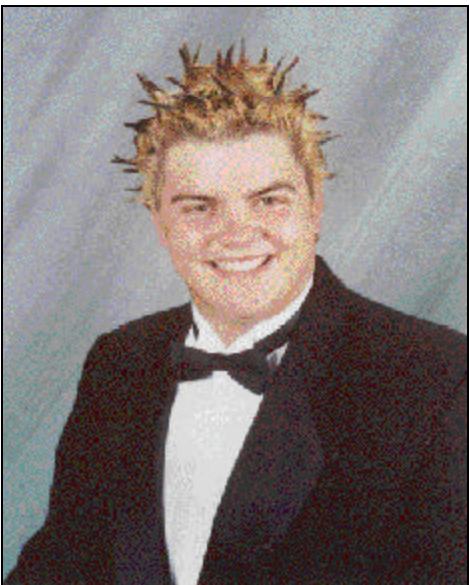
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valedictorian

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You’re on your
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You are the gu
where to go ...”*

-Dr. Sue



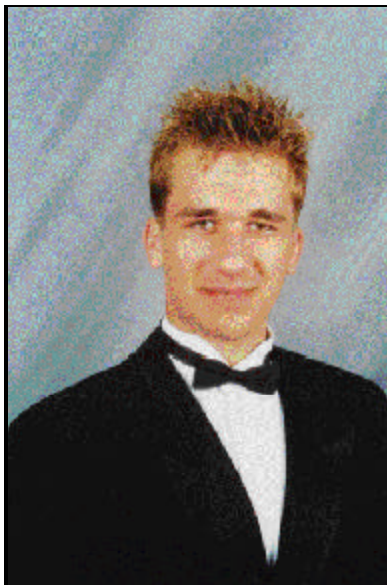
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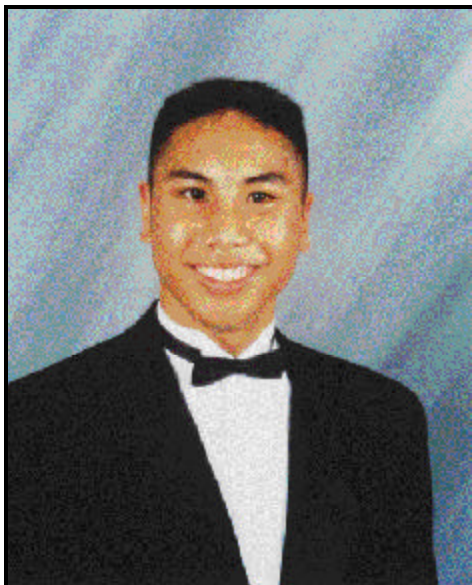
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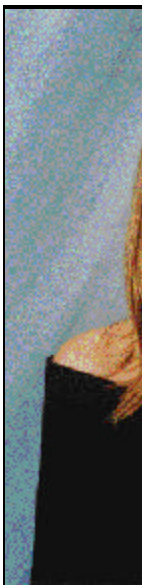
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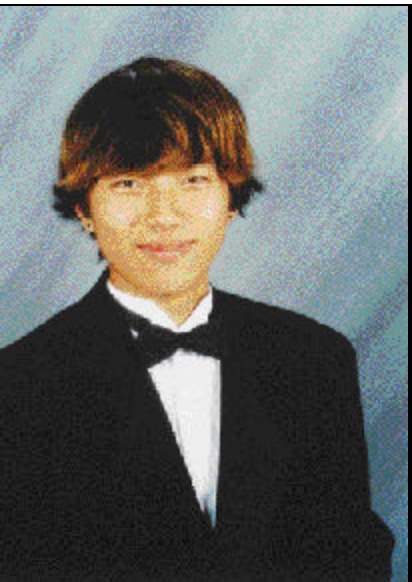
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s Class of 2004

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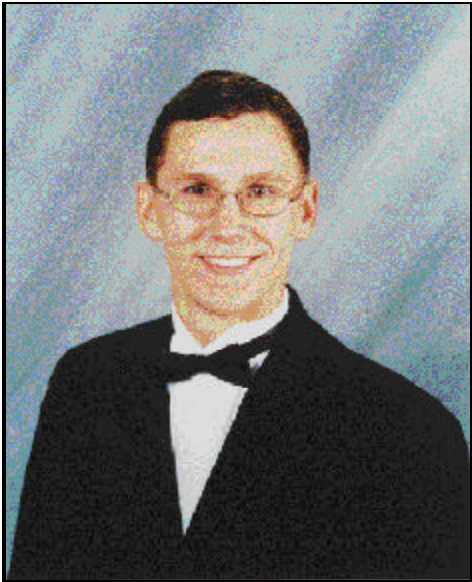
Nanako T. Feldmann
Matthew C. Perry H.S. 2003-2004
salutatorian



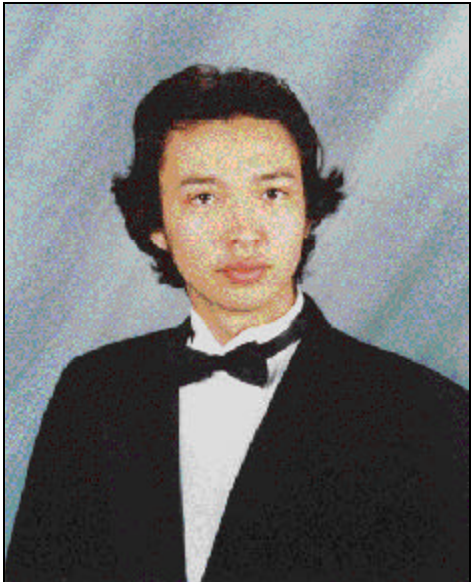
Kevin S. Derr



Stacey N. Brunt



Darien J. Garland



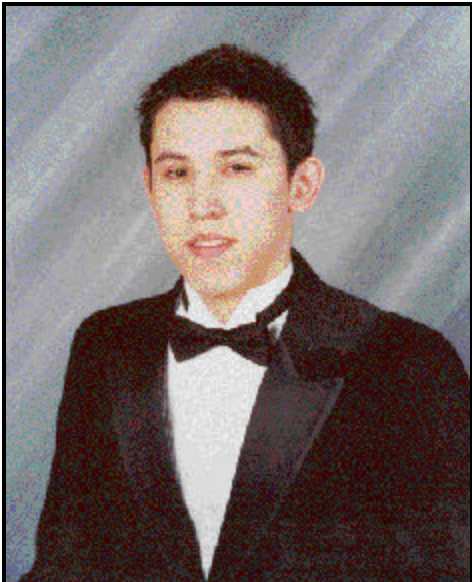
James I. Hawley



emby



India D. McHellen



James D. Moreno



Thomas A. Williamson III

Toukasan Festival welcomes summer

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL. DAVID REVERE
Combat Correspondent

Hundreds of thousands of Japanese residents turned out for Toukasan, one of the three major festivals in Hiroshima, June 4-6.

Toukasan is the summer festival for the god of Touka Daimyoin at Enryuji Temple, Mikawa-cho, Hiroshima City.

The event also marks the beginning of Yukata wearing season. Yukata is a summer kimono of lightweight cotton, especially popular with the young women.

"This is usually the start of wearing yukata for the season," said Yoko Seo, Station culture specialist. "Girls enjoy the night in their yukata. Other people pray to Touka Daimyoin at Enryuji Temple for good luck."

During the three days of the festival, hundreds of street vendors with games and snack foods appear along Chuo Dori Avenue, including popular goldfish scooping, balloon fishing, grilled cuttlefish and more.

The festival site was jammed with children in



Junko Yoshihara sells yakuyoke uchiwa, a fan to ward off evil, during the festival.

Yukatas and young couples indulging in kakigori, a flavored shaved ice. Meanwhile, a parade of cheerful bon-dance dancers celebrated the coming of summertime.

"Bon Odori (bon-dancing) is forming a circle and dancing in a lively way together with min-yo (Japanese traditional folk music)," said Seo. "People used to dance for the repose of deceased spirits and it changed into a folk dance."

Yakuyoke uchiwa, a fan to ward off evil, was sold as a Toukasan specialty at the festival. Participants were reminded of bygone days by the sight of little girls with these fans.

Today, the Toukasan Festival is recognized as a seasonal event to let people know of the arrival of summer. Festival attendance averages as many as 450,000 every year.

The history of Toukasan dates back to when Lord Nagaakira Asano built Enryuji upon his arrival to Hiroshima in 1619.

Toukasan Festival has been popular among citizens for over 380 years. The object of worship, Toukasan is the guardian of Hokke-kyo Buddhism. Touka is one of the two pronunciations for the Japanese word, which is more commonly read inari. Inari means the deity of grain.

"Toukasan gave good fortune to the people of Hiroshima," said Seo.



A priest blesses Toukasan petitioners at a temple during the festival. Toukasan is a Buddhist deity who brings good fortune.



Maeko Kuno and Tamika Hirayama show off their yukatas as they shop at booths during the Toukasan Festival.

OUT THE GATE

Note: Japanese who do not speak English may answer the phone numbers provided.

Calamus Festival

A festival is held around Kikko Park, near the Kintai Bridge, now through Sunday. Flower arrangement is displayed at Chokokan, Kikkawa Museum and Iwakuni Museum. The admission is free. There will be Noh performance Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Japanese music and dance performances,

Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Noh theater in front of the Kikko Shirine. Call 41-1477 for details.

Shukkeien Park Rice Planting Festival

This festival is held at Shukkeien Park in Hiroshima on Sunday. The park opens 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. A tea ceremony is held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rice planting is scheduled 1-1:30 p.m. followed by a dance performance, 1:30-1:55 p.m. and 2:15-2:45 p.m. Admission is required to enter the park. The festival may be cancelled due to an inclement weather. Call 082-221-3620 for more information.

Funotani Firefly Festival

A festival is scheduled Saturday starting 6 p.m. at Funotani, Nishiki Town. Kagura, sacred music and dance, will perform at 7 p.m. This festival may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. For details, call 72-2111.

Iwakuni Clan Musket Corps Demonstration

This monthly demonstration will be held Sunday, 10:30 to 12 p.m. underneath the Kinjo Bridge near the Kintai Bridge. It may be cancelled in case of rain. Call 41-1477 for more information.



TORII TELLER CLASSIFIED ADS

To submit your ads or announcements: *Torii Teller* accepts ads/announcements from nonprofit organizations and groups only. Briefs run on space-available and time-

priority basis. Deadline for briefs is noon Thursday. *Torii Teller* reserves the right to edit to fit space. Stop by Building 1, Room 216 to fill out a form.

AUTOMOBILES

Honda Prelude, 1995, 2 door, 5 speed, must sell, great car, JCI until Nov. 2004, \$1,500 obo. Call 253-2415.

Honda Ascot, 1990, low mileage, 4 door, sun roof, A/C, radio/cassette, runs well, comfortable, JCI until Sept. 2005, \$1,150 obo. Call Diane Sweeney at 253-3501/5448 dwh or e-mail jsweeneycz@hotmail.com.

Isuzu Mu Amigo, 1995, 2 door, SUV, 98,000 km, runs great, well maintained, A/C, P/W, P/L, CD, 4x4, JCI until June 2006, \$2,800. Call Nate Brown 253-4528 dwh or 090-6432-0752.

Nissan Primera, 1994, 4

door, A/C, P/D, P/W, cassette/stereo, runs great, JCI until May 2005, \$1,000. Call GySgt. Allen at 253-6096 dwh or 253-2228 awh.

Suzuki Escudo, 1991, 4 passenger, new set of tires and rims, JCI until Sept. 2004, \$700 obo. Call Thomas at 253-4133 dwh or 253-2384 awh.

Nissan Vanett, 1989, 7 passenger, JCI until Dec. 2004, \$1,200 obo. Call Thomas at 253-4133 dwh or 253-2384 awh.

Honda Saber, 1995, AM/FM/CD, A/C, new tires, must sell, PCS in Aug, excellent condition, JCI until Nov. 2004, \$3,500. Call Capt. Mariott at 253-2436.

Harley Davidson, Super Glide, 2001, 1,450 cc, H-D forward controls, saddle bags, screaming eagle pipes, 2 helmets, all black, great condition, \$16,000. Call Ken at 253-6800 dwh or 253-2056 awh.

OTHER ITEMS

Misc., entertainment center, \$100; oak coffee table, \$75; futon, \$100; toddler bed with mattress, \$30; crib, \$30; prowler bike trailer, \$50; Johnny jumper, \$20; 5 piece couch and tables, less than 4 months old, \$1,600; classic Pooh baby - hamper, \$10; mobile, \$10; wall hangings, \$50; lamp, \$50; comforter and fitted sheet, \$25; valance, \$20; sold together or separate.

Call Capt. Mariott at 253-2436.

Misc., three kerosene heaters with cans and gates, \$250; JVC 27" color TV with stand, mint condition, \$150. Call 38-0289.

JOB OPENINGS

CHRO (253-6828)

Clinic:

–Social Worker

AHO:

–Air Traffic Control Specialist (Terminal)

DECA:

–Store Worker (Intermittent)

MCCS (253-3030)

(The following jobs are open at MCCS Personnel)

MCCS Job Listing:

–Duty Manager, Bachelor Housing

–Senior Sales Associate, Main Complex, civilian only

–Retail Area Supervisor, Main Complex, civilian only

–Sales Associate (Cosmetic), Main Complex, civilian only

–Front Desk Clerk, TLF

–Catering Manager, Club Iwakuni

–Food Service Worker, School Cafeteria, civilian only

–Program Specialist, MCFTB

–Library Technician, Library, civilian only

–Recreation Attendant, Athletics, civilian only

–Recreation Assistant, Divemaster, Aquatics

–Accounting Technician, Accounting, civilian only

–Office Automation Clerk, Executive Office, civilian only

–Marketing Research Specialist, Marketing

–Inventory Control Specialist, MCCS Executive Adm.

cialist, MCCS Executive Adm.

Continuously Open Jobs

Retail Branch:

–Senior Sales Associate

–Retail Operations Assistant

–Sales Clerk

–Store Worker

–Laborer

–Food Service Worker (Auto Mini Mart)

Food & Hospitality:

–Club Operations Assistant

–ID Checker

–Waiter/Waitress

–Food Service Worker

Services Branch:

–Retail Operations Assistant

–Car Rental/Service Station Attendant

–Car/Washer/Laborer

–Recreation Attendant

Athletics Branch:

–Recreation Operations Assistant

–Recreation Assistant

–Recreation Attendant

–Lifeguard

Go to www.mccsiwakuni.com for a complete job listing.



MOVIE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Secondhand Lions (PG)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Men In Black 2 (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Willard (R)
2 a.m. Panic Room (R)

SATURDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. You Got Served (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Matchstick Men (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Underworld (R)
2 a.m. Play It To The Bone (R)

SUNDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Under The Tuscan Sun (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Rob Roy (R)
2 a.m. The Longest Yard (R)

MONDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Rat Race (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. White Men Can't Jump (R)
2 a.m. Swordfish (R)

TUESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Twister (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. Stuck On You (PG-13)
2 a.m. Terminator 3 (R)

WEDNESDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Love Don't Cost A Thing (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. Shanghai Knights (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Order (R)
2 a.m. Tommy Boy (PG-13)

THURSDAY

11 a.m./5 p.m. Screwed (PG-13)
2 p.m./8 p.m. U.S. Marshals (PG-13)
11 p.m./5 a.m. The Sweetest Thing (R)
2 a.m. Twelve Monkeys (R)



HOME ON THE RANGE

Set in the wild west, this is the story of a herd of cows who band together to save their farm. The widow owes \$1000 mortgage on the farm and has no way to pay for it, and the cows get wind of the trouble. Fearing that they'll be sold to the local meat-packing plant, the cows seek a way to earn the money. (76 minutes)



JERSEY GIRL

Ollie Trinke is at the top of his game. A smooth, Manhattan music publicist, Ollie has just married the love of his life and has a child on the way. It's a perfect life that is tragically upended when he suddenly finds himself a single father unqualified for his new role. Before long, Ollie's big city lifestyle clashes head on with fatherhood. After losing his job, he's forced to move back in with his father in the New Jersey suburb where he was raised. (103 minutes)



VAN HELSING

Set in the late 19th century, monster hunter Dr. Gabriel Van Helsing is summoned to a mysterious land in East Europe to vanquish evil forces... evil forces with names like Count Dracula, the Wolf Man, and Frankenstein's Monster. Assisting him once he gets there is Anna, the heir of a long-running family committed to hunting down and destroying Dracula. (145 minutes)

This schedule is submitted by the Sakura Theater and is subject to change. For show times call the Sakura Theater at 253-5291.

SAKURA THEATER

FRIDAY

7 p.m. Van Helsing (PG-13)
10 p.m. Man On Fire (R)
1 a.m. Troy (R)

SATURDAY

1 p.m. Home On The Range (PG)
4 p.m. Jersey Girl (PG-13)
7 p.m. The Whole Ten Yards (PG-13)
10 p.m. Van Helsing (PG-13)
1 a.m. The Lady Killers (R)

SUNDAY

4 p.m. The Whole Ten Yards (PG-13)
7 p.m. Walking Tall (PG-13)

MONDAY

7 p.m. Jersey Girl (PG-13)

TUESDAY

7 p.m. The Prince And Me (PG)

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m. Troy (R)

THURSDAY

7 p.m. Hellboy (PG-13)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

EDUCATION

Test Schedule
Tuesdays/Fridays - CLEP, DSST
Wednesday -ACT
Thursday - SAT
June 24 - AFCT
June 28 - EDPT
For more information, call 253-3855.

CHRO

CHRO Training
■ **Effective Communication Skills:** June 21-23, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
■ **Privacy Act:** June 24, 1-2 p.m.

■ **Human Resources 101:** July 6-9, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information and nomination, call 253-6828 or send e-mail to shiomuram.jp@iwakuni.usmc.mil. Classes will be held at CHRO training room, Building one, Room 102.

MCCS

Career Resource Management Center (253-6439)
■ **Resume Writing:** Tuesday, 9-11 a.m.
■ **Hello U.S.A.:** Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open to all foreign-born spouses.
■ **Interviewing Skills:** Thursday, 1-3 p.m.

Club Iwakuni
■ **Dishwalla Live In Concert:** Sunday, free and all ranks in the ballroom. Doors open at 8 p.m. Show starts at 9 p.m. Call 253-3119 for more information.

Single Marine Program (253-3891)
■ **Pool & Chess Tournament,** June 19, 6 p.m. Prizes for first, second and third place winners.

Teen Center (253-6454)
■ **End Of The School Year Dance Party:** Today, 6-11 p.m.

IT&T (253-4377)
■ **Hiroshima Father's Day Trip:** June 20. Explore Hiroshima city and the new shopping mall, Soleil with Dad.

Liberty Standown Today through Sunday Hours Of Operation
■ **Club Iwakuni:** All clubs will remain open until 3 a.m. today and Saturday, and close at 1 a.m. Sunday. The Eagles Nest will match club lounge hours.
■ **Marine Lounge:** Will close at 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 a.m. on Sunday.
■ **Bowling Center:** Will be

open until at least 2 a.m. today, Saturday and Sunday.
■ **IronWorks Gym:** Will remain open today through 1 a.m. Monday morning.
■ **Library:** Will be open until 24 p.m. today, Saturday and Sunday.
■ **Food Court:** Will remain open until 2 a.m. today and Saturday, and 1 a.m. on Sunday.
■ **Sakura Theatre:** Will show a late movie at 1 a.m. today and Saturday.

National Men's Health Month
Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Crossroads Mall. Talk to a personal trainer and receive free body fat, blood pressure, and cholesterol testing, and information. Call 253-6359 for details.

COMMUNITY

Iwakuni City International Youth Program
Japanese students, 13-17 years old, are looking for several American families, living on base, to help them experience the American lifestyle in the afternoon on June 19. Contact the Public Affairs Office at 253-5344/5551 for more information.

University Of Maryland
Academic Advisor will visit Wednesday through June 18 to

advise students on degree planning. Appointments are required. Call 253-3494 for details.
Crime Stoppers
If you have any information pertaining to a crime please call "Crime Stoppers" at 253-3333. Crime Stoppers is an answering service designed for anonymous callers to give information that would assist the Provost Marshal's Office in solving and preventing crime.

Thrift Store
The Thrift Store is open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and the last Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 1117, located next to the Chapel. Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Call 253-4721 for more information.

Iwakuni Toastmasters
Toastmasters (TM) International provides an excellent opportunity to learn and practice proper public speaking and invaluable leadership skills. The TM experience also looks very good on your resume. The class meets every 2nd Thursday evening and 4th Friday at lunch. Japanese with intermediate or better English skills are welcome. Call Sallie Donahue at 253-5328 for more information.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Roman Catholic

Saturday	4:30 p.m.	Confession
	5:30 p.m.	Mass
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass
	10:45 a.m.	CCD

Protestant

Sunday	8 a.m.	Non-Denominational Christian Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/ Adult Bible Fellowships
	11 a.m.	Gospel Worship Service
	7 p.m.	Liturgical Divine Worship (1st Sunday of the Month)

Cooperative Chapel Ministries

3rd Saturday	8 a.m.	Men's Fellowship Breakfast
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LAY LED SERVICES

Church of Christ

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
Wednesday	7 p.m.	Bible Study

Jesus Christ Apostolic

Sunday	12:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study

Seventh-Day Adventist

2nd & 4th Saturdays	9:30 a.m.	Sabbath School/Worship
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Jewish

Every other Friday	6 p.m.	Shabbat
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Latter Day Saints

Sunday	1 p.m.	Priesthood/RS Meeting
	2 p.m.	Sunday School
	3 p.m.	Sacrament

For information regarding divine services, religious education or any other Command Religious Program/Chapel activity, call the Station Chapel at 253-5218.



Lance Cpl. Giovanni Lobello

Honoring our Japanese retirees

A Retirement Ceremony for Station Master Labor Contract/Indirect Hire Agreement employees was held at Club Iwakuni June 7. The retirees were honored for their loyal service to the Station with a certificate of appreciation. (Seated left to right) Ikuo Takashima, Facilities, 28 years of service; Yoko Shirakami, Logistics, 28 years of service; Hiroshi Uemoto, Marine Corps Community Service, 5 years of service; Yoko Fujii, MCCS, 12 years of service; Shoichi Sakano, Hiroshima Defense Facilities Administration general manager; Col. Dave Darrah, Station Commanding officer; Tomoko Kuwahara, MCCS, 12 years of service; Tadashi Kimura, MCCS, 15 years of service; Kazuko Tomofuji, MCCS, 10 years of service; Junko Kimura, MCCS, 9 years of service. (Standing left to right) Mara S. Katz, Human Resources Specialist; Dale D. Smith director, MCCS; Lt. Cmdr Robert A. Keating, Logistics officer; Cmdr. David J. Sasek, Facilities officer; Kenji Iwamoto, Director, Iwakuni Branch of Labor Management Organization for USFJ Employees, Incorporated Administrative Agency; Itaru Shinmoto, Hiroshima DFAB and Mikio Shimokawa, Deputy Chief, Iwakuni Defense Facilities Administration Office.

Provost Marshals Office lucky shot falls, 55-52

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPL GIOVANNI LOBELLO
Combat Correspondent

Shaquille O’Neal recently said “one lucky shot deserves another one.” This quote could have summed up the June 1 matchup between the Provost Marshals Office and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12. Fans witnessed MALS-12 guard Ricky Brook’s three-point shot bank off the backboard and tie the game at 52. With 3.1 seconds left, PMO’s point guard Benjamin Akins pushed the ball up court and matched the previous shot by banking a running three to give PMO the win.

PMO and MALS-12, both unde-



With a PMO defender on him, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 guard Ricky Brooks hangs in the air avoiding the block and contributing to his teams first half comeback.

feated, went head to head in the Over 30 Intramural Basketball League game at the Ironworks Gym. “Our strategy coming into the game was to run as much as possible, and give the ball to our big guys inside,” said Dean Lazarou, MALS-12 coach.

PMO shooting guard Robert H. Thomas, opened the game with a pair of threes and a jumper, which jump started his team to an 11-3 lead. After the quick start, both teams struggled to score.

“Free throws plagued us in the beginning,” said Lazarou. “We just couldn’t make any of our free throws, which enabled them to maintain their lead. We counted on our team defense to help bring us back in the game.”

Despite the rough start, good defense and a collective team effort helped rally MALS-12 to within two points off the lead after being down 11 in the opening minutes.

“Coming into the game, we thought we could out run them and get them tired,” said Akins. “But the strategy didn’t work and with our shots not falling, that kept them in the game.”



Provost Marshals Office point guard Benjamin Akins gets caught up behind the rim and tries adjust by making a complicated layup with defenders jumping at him.

However, six minutes into the first half, MALS-12’s run ended when Akins buried a pull-up three to try and bring the momentum back to PMO’s favor.

Despite the clutch three, MALS-12 continued their surge into the end of the first half. Akins hit a buzzer beating jump shot to hand PMO the 24-23 lead.

The second half started the same way the first ended, as Akins knocked down outside shots to increase his

team’s lead. A good defensive battle plagued both teams with countless fouls while good team offense and defense kept the game competitive. After back and forth scoring, MALS-12 managed to take a one-point lead for the first time after two bad plays led to two easy layups. Thomas came through with yet another three to break the tie and give PMO a 46-43 lead.

The closing minutes of the game was injected with emotion as PMO coach Randy Blanche was ejected from the game. Two quick technicals were called for harassing the officials on what Blanche thought was a bad call. The two technicals allowed MALS-12 to shoot four free throws and maintain possession.

MALS-12 power forward Dale Dudley, made two of the four free throws. After the inbound an additional jump shot was made, giving them a 47-46 lead.

A couple more baskets and the stage was set for the miracle ending that saw Akins run down the length of the court, kissing a three off the backboard.

“This wasn’t the first time I have done this,” said Akins. “I knew I could get the ball up the floor in three seconds. All I needed was just a good look for it to fall. When I jumped I knew I had to put it up soft against the backboard in order for it to fall.”

IWAKUNI SPORTS SCENE

CULTURAL EXCHANGE BASEBALL GAME AND HOME STAY

Youth Sports is looking for families living on the Station to host Japanese youth baseball players on June 26 and 27. The players are 7 to 9-year-old boys from the Rijyo, Hiroshima Kita and Kurehigashi Teams. The community is welcome to come out and enjoy these events with the children in an effort to support the youth of Iwakuni. If you are interested in hosting one or two Japanese youth baseball players, contact the Youth Sports Office at 253-3239 or 253-4605.

SECOND SEASON OF SOFTBALL

Coaches meet June 29, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. Season begins July 5. Call 253-5777 for details.

BOWLING CENTER THEME NIGHTS

Enjoy music, \$1 games and 10 percent off food.

- ☑ Rhythm and Blues Night, today, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- ☑ Country & Western Night, Saturday, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wear your country gear, cowboy hat, and enjoy a night of bowling to nonstop country music until 2 a.m.
- ☑ Latino Night, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 a.m.

DOUBLE RACKET BALL TOURNAMENT

Players meet Tuesday, 10 a.m. in the IronWorks Gym Wellness Room. Tournament begins June 19. Call 253-5777 for more information.

NAKAYAMAGAWA DAM FISHING TRIP

Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sign-up costs \$15. Gear Issue lends rods and reels to MCCS patrons at no cost. Bring your own bait, tackle, home lunch and water. Call 253-3822 for more information.

Mighty kids swing for fundamentals

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LANCE CPT. RUBEN D. CALDERON
Combat Correspondent

It was a day of fun, excitement and knowledge for the Yankees and the White Sox, as they slugged it out at the Friendship Field during noncompetitive little league action, Sunday.

Six to 9-year-old children from the Station participate in the league, which exists for the sole purpose of learning the basic fundamentals of the sport of baseball. There are no points or winners in the league, just the absorption of fundamentals of America's past time.



Jawaun Stanley, Yankees team player, rounds third base and heads to home plate after a fellow team player hits a grounder to first base.

"We teach the children how to play the game. This league prepares and guides them," said John K. Grayvold, Yankees head coach.

The league serves as a stepping-stone rather than an actual competition.

"Before the kids started playing in this league, they played T-ball. Here, we the coaches pitch to our own players. This is something new to them and something that will better them as baseball players," said Grayvold.

"Part of the league is to help the children learn how to hit an actual pitch," said Rodney D. Bogan, White Sox head coach. "There are 10 players in the lineup and we complete an inning after all 10 players have gone up to bat. If they get three outs before that happens then the next team will go up to bat."

"This league is definitely getting the kids

prepared for real baseball. They have improved so much and they continue to. At the same time, they are having fun. At this age it is difficult to develop, but through constant reinforcement, reiteration techniques and the players attitude towards the game, we have made progress," Grayvold said.

"The game of baseball for children at such a young age is a learning process," said Bogan. "There is no pressure, therefore the children can go out and apply the basic fundamentals that are taught to them, and start to get a feel for the game."

According to Grayvold, "The most important thing for these kids is not only to have fun, but also learn how to improve their game."

The league began in April and will conclude June 15. An all-star team is currently in the works to play against local Japanese teams.



Dean Mastria, Yankees team player, races towards first base and lunges before the throw to White Socks first baseman Shawn Eagmin during 7-9-year-old little league action at the Friendship Field, Sunday.



Andrew Siaw, Yankees team player, hits a shot to left field, knocking in a runner from third base. The Yankees and the White Sox enjoyed a beautiful Sunday afternoon learning the fundamentals of baseball during a noncompetitive little league baseball game. The league began in April and will conclude June 15. An all-star team is currently in the works to play against local Japanese teams.



Jawuan Stanley tries to maneuver his way around a tag from White Sox first baseman Shawn Eagmin in the second inning of Sunday's game.